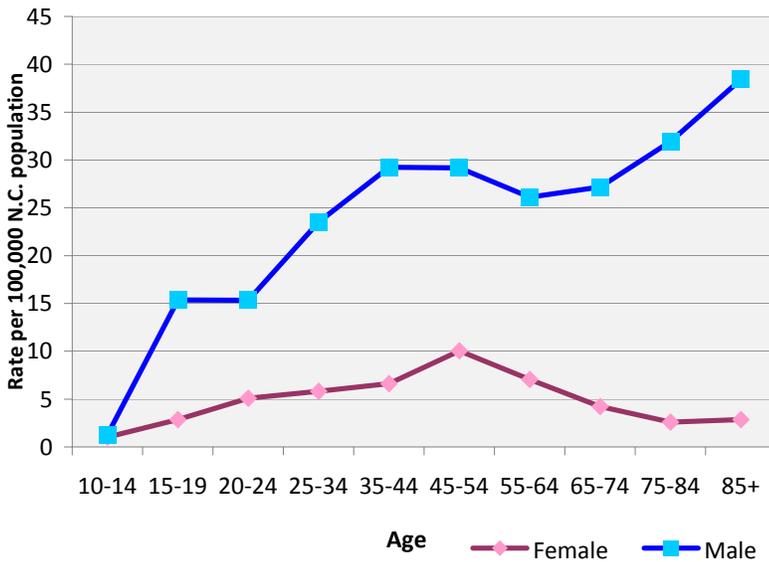


SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January 2004. This document summarizes deaths among North Carolina residents caused by suicide for the year 2009.

Gender-Specific Suicide Rates by Age: NC-VDRS, 2009



- Suicide claimed 1,157 lives of North Carolina residents in 2009. The total of number of deaths as a result of violence was 1,815.

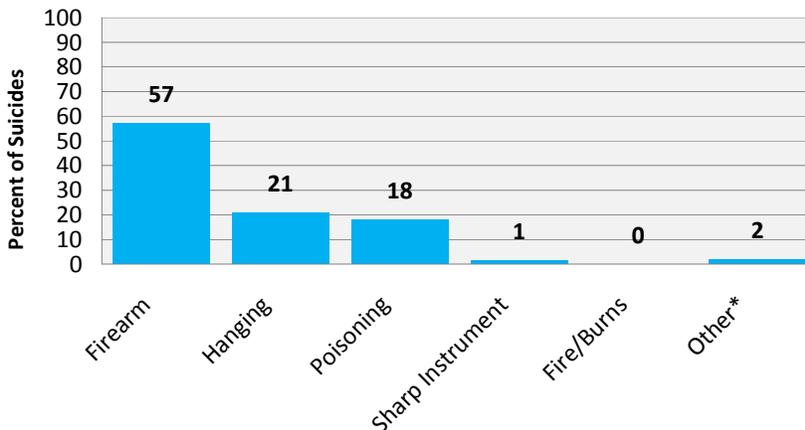
- Males consistently had a higher suicide rate than females, regardless of age. The suicide rate peaked for men 85 years and older at a rate of 38.4 per 100,000.

- Among females, the suicide rate peaked for ages 45 - 54 at 10.1 per 100,000 and steadily declined thereafter.

- Nearly 90 percent of all suicide victims were identified as white. White males in particular had higher suicide rates than members of other racial groups.
- The majority of suicides (57 %) were accomplished using firearms.



Method of Death: NC-VDRS, 2009

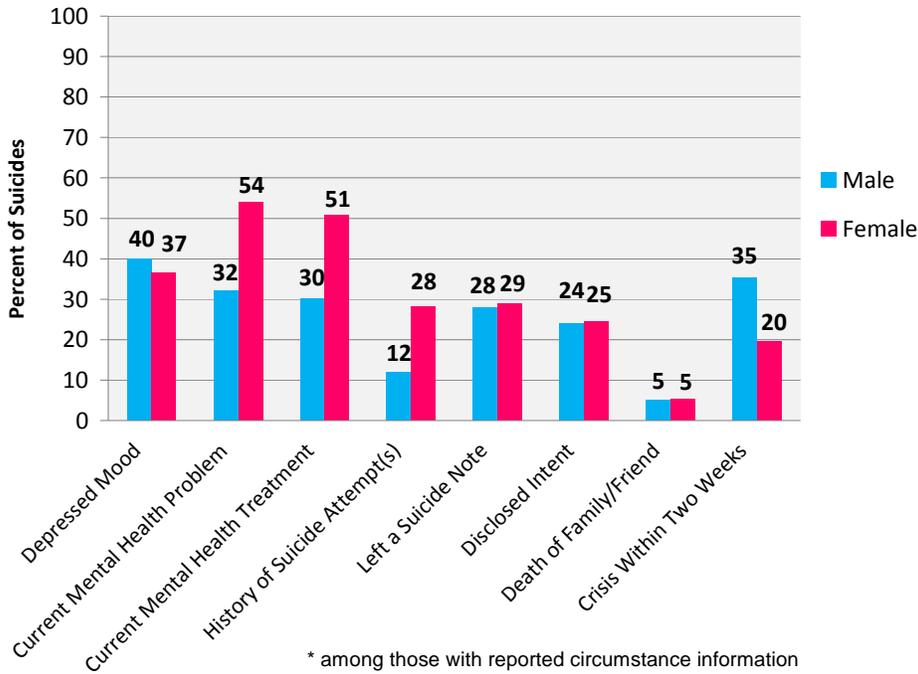


- After firearms, hanging (21 %) and poisoning (18 %) are the second and third leading causes of suicide, respectively.

- Less than 4 percent of suicides were accomplished using a method other than firearms, hanging or poisoning.

*Other includes falls, motor vehicle, drowning, fire/burns, unknown and other causes of suicide.

Suicide Circumstances*: NC-VDRS, 2009



* among those with reported circumstance information

- Nearly a quarter of suicides had disclosed their intention to commit suicide to someone else.
- Females (28 %) were more likely to have a history of prior suicide attempts than males (12 %).

- Forty percent of male suicide victims and 37 percent of female victims with circumstance information were characterized as being depressed.

- Fifty-four percent of females and 32 percent of males were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

- A similar trend was seen in mental health treatment. Fifty-one percent of females and 30 percent of males were being treated for a mental health problem at the time of death.

- Males (35 %) were more likely to have experienced a crisis within two weeks of death compared with females (20 %).

More information on suicide prevention efforts can be found at:

State Resource Partners

N.C. Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services

www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas

North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Contact: Krista Ragan, Child Death Investigator, 919-445-4414

www.ocme.unc.edu

The Triangle Consortium for Suicide Prevention

Contact: Phil Morse

www.trianglesuicideprevention.org

N.C. Injury and Violence Prevention's Youth Suicide Prevention Website

www.itsok2ask.com

National Resources

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center

www.sprc.org

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

www.afsp.org

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

for suicide crisis calls

1-800-273-8255



The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5U17/CE423098-09 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



N.C. Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425

N.C. Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432

State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / www.ncdhhs.gov

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